

- 4) ~~The boat covering structure of claim 3 further comprising a storage compartment adapted to be rigidly mounted to the reinforcing grid.~~
- 5) (amended) The boat covering structure of claim 3 wherein the vertical support frames comprise a plurality of generally vertical pipes and a plurality of horizontal connecting pipes wherein the plurality of horizontal connecting pipes are sized for a width corresponding to the desired mounting width and are adapted to be rigidly connected to the plurality of generally vertical pipes.
- 6) (amended) A method for installing a customizable boat covering structure kit on a deck of a variety of different sized boats comprising the steps of:
- a) determining a plurality of mounting points on the deck of the boat for the structure;
  - b) providing a plurality of customizable standard size vertical support frames of a predetermined length with a plurality of bottom ends corresponding to the plurality of mounting points;
  - c) determining the height of the boat covering structure relative to the boat deck;
  - d) adjusting the height of the vertical support frames by permanently removing part of the vertical support frames so that the final length is less than the predetermined length to correspond to the determined height;
  - e) ~~rigidly connecting~~ providing a reinforcing grid adapted to be rigidly connected to the top end of the plurality of vertical support frames;
  - f) providing a plurality of customizable horizontal supports adapted to fit the width of the boat and to be rigidly connected to the vertical support frames;
  - ~~f)g)~~ rigidly connecting a lid to the reinforcing grid to form a solid structure; and
  - h) rigidly mounting the solid structure at the plurality of mounts mounting points on the deck of the boat.